prioritised in consultation with them. This assistance is provided for improvement in infrastructure facilities including Wayside Amenities, Signages, Public Conveniences, Parking Areas, Tourist Reception Centres etc.

Promotion of Magic

1076. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are promoting various cultural activities including showing of magic;

(b) if so, what is the total amount earmarked for promotion of magic in the country;

(c) whether any scheme has been launched or incentives have been given for promotion of this culture; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) Government promotes various cultural activities including magic through identified schemes and Zonal Cultural Centres. There is no specific scheme for promotion of magic and hence no separate amount has specifically been earmarked for magic.

Water allocation to various states

1077. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water policy was formulated in 1986 and there is a need for its revision due to water allocation to various States;

(b) whether Government have finalised to guidelines for water allocation; and

(c) by when the new water policy is likely to be framed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The National Water Policy was adopted in 1987 in the 2nd meeting of

National Water Resources Council held in September, 1987 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister;

The existing National Water Policy needed to be reviewed and updated in the context of a number of issues/emerging challenges and also in the light of the experiences of the last 10 years of its implementation. Accordingly an updated draft National Water Policy was formulated and finalized after detailed discussions in the 10th meeting of National Water Board in October, 1998.

The draft National Water Policy and Draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocaiton amongst the States, as finalized by the National Water Board, were placed before the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) for consideration and adoption in its 4th meeting held on 7.7.2000.

During the meeting, the deliberations established a broad consensus among the States on most the issues constained in the proposed policy. However, some areas of differences still remain. In order to achieve greater convergence and agreement on these issues the council decided for constitution of a Working Group of Ministers of all the States/UTs chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources.

Conservation of Surface Water

1078. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed a scheme for the conservation of surface water;

(b) whether the State Governments are being assisted by Government for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposal in that regard?